



# Compelling

Connecting beyond tolerance

LOVE  
& Sexual Identity

[CompellingLoveFilm.com](http://CompellingLoveFilm.com)

## THE FILM

In a culture polarized by strong and often differing opinions, how can we connect with those whose beliefs, values, and lifestyles we find offensive?

Over the past year, we traveled the country, posing this question to scores of people with different sexual orientations and gender identities.

*Compelling Love & Sexual Identity* is the result of their answers: a thought-provoking and moving feature-length documentary film that captures their personal stories and candid responses.

## BIOS

### **Kurt Neale – Director and Producer**

Kurt Neale is owner of KFN Productions, and president of Capernaum Inc. As a filmmaker and consultant, he is passionate about the art of visual storytelling and its role in capturing the depth of human experience to facilitate deeper connections between people. Since graduating from SMU with a degree in Fine Arts, Kurt has spent more than thirty years creating corporate videos, as well as numerous short films and documentaries to promote a variety of humanitarian needs and non-profit organizations both in the United States and abroad.

### **Dr. Gary Barnes – Producer**

Gary Barnes is a licensed psychologist and maintains a private practice specializing in marriage and family counseling. He is also a certified sex therapist, an ordained minister, and a seminary professor. Gary received his Ph.D. in psychology at Columbia University and while in New York, contributed to the NYU Medical Center's Family Studies Clinic as a research coordinator. He later completed a postdoctoral fellowship through Parkland Hospital in Dallas and the Child Guidance Clinics of Dallas and Texoma.

## FILM STATEMENTS

### **Director/Producer – Kurt Neale**

I made this film (documentary) in response to my belief (often shaky) that God loves me. I believe that God loves everyone he created. I believe that when I was very much against God, he drew me to himself. This occurred when I was going *my own way*, as I often still choose to do. I am personally compelled by the love of God for me as demonstrated in Jesus Christ.

The above said, this documentary does NOT push a religious agenda. “Compelling Love” presents a third option that goes beyond tolerance or intolerance, as it relates specifically to sexual identity differences.

This third option is compelling love. To me, compelling love is the experience (beautiful art) created when truth and grace collide. It occurs when people are truthful in expressing their stories, values, and beliefs, yet willing to receive with grace those who differ, offend, or stand positionally “against” them.

The film serves as a canvas, giving people the opportunity (regardless of their sexual identity or religious views) to paint their personal stories. Our hope is that they and those who view it will be drawn into an experience of compelling love.

### **Producer – Dr. Gary Barnes**

As a clinical psychologist, seminary professor, and ordained minister, I have encountered so many people whose questions and struggles regarding their sexual identity have gotten lost in the culture wars. I want to provide people a safe place for authentic stories to be shared—a place that encourages honest dialogue. Embracing tolerance or remaining intolerant are inadequate responses to a culture polarized by opinions. I would like to see us—as a people—expand our capacity for connection beyond sameness or agreement, to a love that can reach beyond our comfort zones and embrace those different from us.

Moving from debate to dialogue requires us to wrestle with the question “*How do I connect with someone who greatly differs, distresses or even offends me?*” For me, I look to Jesus Christ who received *me* when I was *not* like him. Our greatest need is for the acceptance of “others” without the precondition of accepting their beliefs or behaviors. This process begins with careful and compassionate listening.

This film is for anyone and everyone willing to listen. This includes the un-churched, the churched, the spiritual, the unspiritual, the straight, and naturally, the LGBTQ community.

Media Contact:  
Nathan Chan  
469-718-9148  
[media@compellinglovesfilm.com](mailto:media@compellinglovesfilm.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Documentary “Compelling Love & Sexual Identity” Released Online

Dallas, TX – 11/06/2014 – Producers Kurt Neale and Dr. Gary Barnes release online their feature-length documentary—*Compelling Love and Sexual Identity*. In a culture polarized by strong opinions, this evocative film explores how people of differing sexual orientations and gender identities can form connections that move beyond an often passive and begrudging tolerance.

From San Francisco to New York and Miami, *Compelling Love* presents a montage of candid responses and personal reflections that covers a wide spectrum of beliefs and lifestyles relating to sexual identity. Neale and Barnes conceived the idea for *Compelling Love* out of their desire to see people share in authentic relationships despite their differences. “The film is controversial simply because it does not conform to the agenda of the far left or the far right. Seeing people connect out of love for one another is the only agenda”, says Neale—the film’s director. Funding for the film has come from Kickstarter and private donors. Aside from its premiere in Dallas, the film, along with all recorded interviews, is distributed and available as a free download at [www.compellinglovesfilm.com](http://www.compellinglovesfilm.com).

Kurt Neale is owner of KFN Productions, and president of Capernaum Inc. As a filmmaker and consultant, he is passionate about the art of visual storytelling and its role in capturing the depth of human experience to facilitate deeper connections between people. Gary Barnes is a licensed psychologist and maintains a private practice. He is also a certified sex therapist, an ordained minister, and a seminary professor.

###